

Idaho's Invasive Species Plan...



Invasive Species

*Idaho's Strategic Action Plan
To Meet
This Growing Challenge*

Idaho's Invasive Species Plan...



**Many Non-Native Species Are
Desirable**

- Potatoes
- Chukar partridges, pheasants
- Apples
- Wheat
- Forage crops
- Livestock





What is an Invasive Species?



- **Plant, animal or pathogen**
- **Non-native, introduced species**
- **Aquatic or terrestrial**
- **Cause harm to human or animal health**
- **Cause economic or environmental harm**



A Prelude to Action...



- **Idaho's weed summit and weed management plan**
- **Creation of the Invasive Species Council**
- **Completion of a Statewide Assessment**
- **Increasing National Attention**
- **The Invasive Species Summit**

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All Point to a Growing Problem...



- **A mobile society**
- **Growing ease of commerce and trade**
- **Multiple, individual efforts that are not well coordinated**
- **A state that is particularly vulnerable**

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...With Serious Implications



- **"Hitchhiking" insects threaten our forests and shade trees**
- **West Nile Virus is a threat to animal and human health**
- **Yellow starthistle threatens to spread**
- **Zebra mussels threaten power and irrigation**

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**The Answer is Prevention,
Coupled with Early
Detection and Eradication**

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The Question is “How?”

- **The results of the statewide Assessment**
- **The results of the Invasive Species Summit**
- **Four working groups that included over 30 invasive species professionals**

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Over 20 Proposals in 7 Broad Categories



- Categories
 - Early Intervention
 - Containment, Control, Restoration
 - Education and Training
 - Research and Technology Transfer
 - Funding
 - Effective Legal Structure
 - Program Coordination
- Goal Statement (A condition we want in 10 years)
- Tasks (What we need to do to achieve a desired condition)
- Objective (Progress we should see within 5 years of initiating the task)

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How Does the Plan Relate to Existing Programs?



- Assumption is that existing programs will continue to operate as they do now
- There are commonalities to be strengthened
- There is a need for coordination
- There is a need to increase visibility, stature and priority within state government



Some Examples...

- Nursery, utility workers and those with outdoor jobs should be trained to identify weeds or other species in “new” places
- There is a new “CRISSP” with \$1 million and their work needs to be coordinated with the statewide plan
- Ports of Entry employees may encounter species but have no authority to act



Coordinating Our Efforts

Goal: Create a statewide “invasive species coordinator” and to clarify the roles and actions of the Invasive Species Council in augmenting existing programs and coordinating statewide efforts.

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The Role of the Coordinator

- With the Council, set priorities and develop a work plan to implement the tasks;
- Represent the Governor on invasive species;
- Develop grants to implement the plan;
- Provide information to the Legislature, Congressional delegation and stakeholders;
- Identify key audiences and educational efforts;
- Work with the University of Idaho, USDA and other partners to identify invaders, assess risks;
- Establish a single statewide point of contact for reporting new or spreading invasive species.

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Consider One Example...

- Locating funding for the training project,
- Working with specialists to identify target species,
- Working with communications and education specialists to design training materials,
- Finding graphic artists or other specialists to complete training/education materials,
- Arranging meetings of trainees, along with the proper specialists and presenters for the training sessions,
- Suggesting improvements and assuring that there are adequate replacement materials for providing training to new personnel, and,
- Reporting on the success of the effort to the Invasive Species Council.

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What the Coordinator Won't Do



- Assume management of existing programs
- Add another layer of oversight
- Bleed existing programs for money
- Be involved in day-to-day operations of current efforts

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We Can Meet the Challenge...



- Plan represents the blueprint
- Based upon the input of professionals in the field
- It is achievable
- It will help